

Treasure Trove #1 - Trees

Trees are Fairfax County's free air filters. Greenhouse gasses, pollutants and other chemicals generated by cars and buses can create a health risk. Luckily these pollutants are taken up by plants and trees that flourish in our parks, line our streets and shade our yards to create healthier, more breathable air. Check out the willow oaks at **Ellanor C. Lawrence Park** to see some giants at work.



know that minks, river otters and skunks are also found in Fairfax County? And, of course, we have lots of deer!

Treasure Trove #4 - Ecology

Ecology links wildlife, vegetation, air, water, soil and people. It reflects our past, and it guides our future. Our ecology is unique to us, and we have the power to make it thrive. It is really very simple: if we play our part, the complex cycles of ecology will provide diverse wildlife and plant life, clean air and water that is plentiful and pure.

Treasure Trove #2 - Streams

Fairfax County has mountains to our west and oceans to our east – so that means we have a lot of streams, from the tiniest trickle across an old field at **The Turner Farm** to the broad Potomac and Occoquan Rivers. Countless streams provide fresh drinking water and homes for wildlife. There is something inspiring about a walk alongside a sparkling, gurgling brook. And in special places like **Scotts Run Nature Preserve** and **Frying Pan Park**, there's the added beauty and attraction of waterfalls.

Treasure Trove #3 – Wildlife

Are you aware of all the different kinds of wildlife that we have in Fairfax County? A recent study found that we have 10 percent of North America's biodiversity in dragonflies, and that is just at one park: **Riverbend**! Birders already know that places like **Huntley Meadows** and **Sully Woodlands** provide consistent opportunities to see species such as herons, egrets, bitterns and hawks. But did you

"The place to study nature is at one's own home—on the farm, in the mountains, by the sea—wherever that may be."

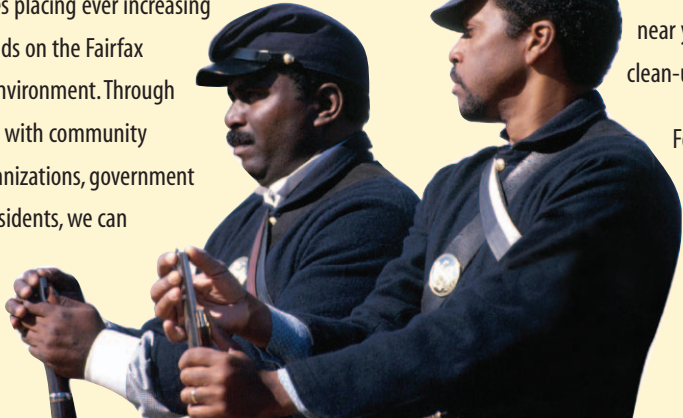
John Burroughs

Treasure Trove #5 - People

Our cultural history is preserved in the parks of Fairfax County. From George Washington's home in **Mount Vernon** to the Civil War Battle at **Ox Hill**, park land enables us to protect the places in Fairfax County that have played a vital role in our nation's history.

Local history can be enjoyed at **Colvin Run Mill**, where the art of making flour is still alive at our county's award-winning grist mill.

Tomorrow will see more people and more houses placing ever increasing demands on the Fairfax County environment. Through a partnership with community groups, non-profit organizations, government agencies and concerned residents, we can work together to maintain the high quality of life we now enjoy.



If not you, who? Small Things.

◆ **Take time to assess your yard care needs.** Are you adding too much or too little fertilizer? Are you overwatering? Could you substitute plants that are more resource friendly? Ask the experts at **Green Spring Garden**, the Park Authority's premier horticultural park.

◆ **Have you heard of code red air quality days?** Hot and humid summer weather combined with air pollution sometimes creates conditions of poor air quality. What can you do? Take a bus or other public transportation, car pool, or if you drive, get gas after 7:00 at night, when the air quality generally improves.

◆ **Be kind to wildlife – don't interfere.** Wildlife have developed behaviors that allow them to find food and raise their young. Wild animals are not suitable pets as they often have nutrition requirements or care needs that humans cannot provide. The most beneficial thing you can do for wildlife is to observe them from a distance and help protect the land that is their natural habitat.

If not you, who? Big Things.

◆ **Adopt-a-Park.** Contact the Park Authority about how you can protect the resource treasure near your home. Maybe organize a stream clean-up or help pull invasive ivy from the trees.

For more information on these and other ideas, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship.

How it All Fits Together

How did Fairfax County get "resources"? And what makes them "treasures"? Both of these answers are complicated and would require much more than a single brochure to explain because the answer is different to different people. And that is the key to defining a resource treasure – people. Fairfax County has so many resource treasures because our people value the environmental and cultural components of our landscape. People regularly share the simple joy that they've received from watching a cardinal flit outside their window, or how the temperature drops next to the waterfall at Scotts Run, or what it is like to walk at Ox Hill, site of a terrible battle during the Civil War. People are not just casual, uninvolved bystanders - we can help create a resource (such as Mount Vernon), and we can learn to value a resource (like clean drinking water). So why do we need a brochure? Simply because Fairfax County is so big, so diverse and so full of resource treasures that we may need a little help finding them all! This brochure is a starting place – a path that we hope you continue to explore on your own so that you too can discover a treasure of Fairfax County.



Care, Educate, Inspire

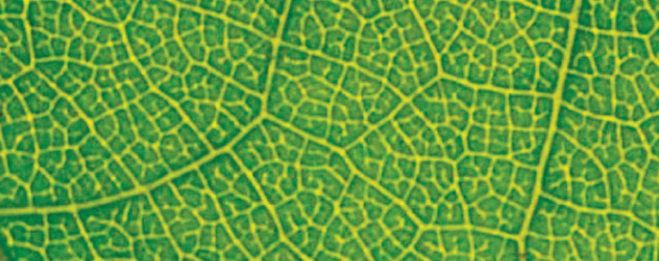
Stewardship is about working together to care for the environmental and cultural resources of Fairfax County. People become stewards for different reasons. They may want to help ensure clean water and air. They may wish to share something with their children. They may be inspired by spiritual beliefs. Whatever prompts our commitment, it is easy to take an active role in stewardship. It can be a small and simple thing, or it can be much bigger. Either way, it all adds up to a Fairfax County that looks to its past with pride and to its future with confidence.

You can learn more about Fairfax County Stewardship, the Board of Supervisor's 20-year environmental vision and the Fairfax County Park Authority at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship



If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563. TTY 703-803-3354.





Scotts Run Nature Preserve



Wetlands



Historic Artifacts



Wildlife



Living History



Farm Life



Wildflowers



Volunteers



Riverbend Park



Mount Vernon



Colvin Run Mill



Burke Lake Park



Interpretation



Birds



Forests